

New Beginnings Family Academy
184 Garden Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Re: Bill number (S.B. 948)

I'm a public school teacher who has worked in Charter schools for the last 5 years. I want to state my disappointment in Governor Lamont's proposed budget for Charter and other public schools that does not allow for equitable funding all. Charter schools are and has been severely underfunded for many years, and the proposed nominal increase for charter schools is not enough. It would add \$250 per pupil to the letter line item that funds charter schools. That's sort of good news because every little bit counts. However, that amount only brings charters to the minimum wage funding level for Connecticut public schools. Governor Lamont consider this Bill in an effort to;

- Send millions of dollars to schools that serve Black, Brown, and low-income students. For example: Bridgeport +\$17M, Hartford +\$34M, New Haven +\$15M
- Make funding more equitable by reflecting the learning needs of English language learners and children in communities with concentrated poverty.
- Fund all public schools through a needs-based formula that includes magnets, charters, and vocational-technical schools without taking money away from traditional schools.
- Eliminate the phase-in and fully fund the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. Under current law, a second grader will be in high school before they receive their full funding.

Sincerely,

Amare McPherson